

Class Struggle 88 March-April 2010

# We are all Greeks!

Brief Stuff

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# Brief Stuff

## National-ACT: 3 strikes and you're out!

National ACT is pushing for the adoption of the US 3 strike law to lock up 'hardened' criminals. It doesn't work in the US after 30 years and it won't work here. <http://www.thestandard.org.nz/3-strikes-law-could-increase-murders-nats-suppress-official-advice/>. This is no more than a sop to the bosses who want to lock up all those who break the law and throw away the key. This is directed



at the working class facing a crisis where to survive more will resort to theft against property and persons. But it is capitalism and its crisis that is the cause of rising crime. It is sheer hypocrisy for the ruling boss class to lock up the working class for minor crimes when it gets away with theft of public property to fatten the pockets of its farming and banking cronies. National-ACT is engaged in three major acts of open crime against the working class for the benefit of its rich backers: **Auckland Assets (see Article *Socialise Tamaki Makarau*), Canterbury Water and Conservation Gold.**

In the case of **Canterbury Water** we see the local descendants of the 19<sup>th</sup> century squattocracy who grabbed thousands of acres, not squatting on water rights. The NACT regime has sacked the Canterbury Regional Council (CRC) in the pretext that it couldn't fulfil its tasks, when in fact what they wanted was the wholesale granting of water rights to the dairy industry that has expanded rapidly in recent years. David Carter, deputy Minister for Local Government, who has a farm that can benefit from new water rights, and Rodney Hide, Minister of Conservation, both leading the charge to privatise Auckland, decided to do the same sort of blitzkrieg on Canterbury water. Bill English brother who was being taken to court by the CRC for dumping waste will probably avoid conviction.

In the case of Conservation Gold, the government has been talking to the mining industry since 2006 to open up Department of Conservation land to mining. See <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1004/S00012.htm> and <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/HL1003/S00322.htm> lists the various sources. We are not opposed to mining in principle as high tech methods can avoid destroying the ecology. However, we reject the NACT plans for mining as they involve rip-shit cowboys like Aussie mining interests pulling out gold, coal, oil etc with no real economic benefit coming to workers. The NACT regime talks about billions worth of value from mining. This is a vast exaggeration, and the profits that are made will leave the country. <http://tumeke.blogspot.com/2010/03/national-told-mining-industry-what-they.html>. We are for mining in public land only by the state under workers control. We are for the nationalisation of land and all natural resources under workers control with agricultural, mining and other use rights leased and monitored by workers committees.

**No to privatisation of water, land, foreshore and seabed and minerals!!!**

**We say to Rodney Hide and his National-ACT cronies: 3 strikes and you're out! Smash National-ACT!**

## Whanau Ora – Privatising welfare

Maori party leader Tariana Turia has happily announced a new policy which she says will reshape the way social services are delivered in NZ. She is now the minister for Whanau Ora. Translated this means "healthy families".

The effect of this Maori party lead policy will be more crumbs for the Maori "Trust" bosses of social service providers. The frontline workers will not be paid more. Instead frontline wages will fall overall. Currently in social work, Health and Welfare (CYFS) lead social worker wage rates (perhaps paid a premium for oppressive roles). Trusts (privatised welfare) pay poorly. The Maori party will deliver low wages to frontline family workers and result in cost cutting for their National - Act government and their capitalist masters.

Maori party support of the National - ACT government has brought about this new welfare policy: "Whanau Ora". It won't just be Maori families which will suffer this new "healthiness"; Nat - ACT government insisted that the new welfare be open to all families.

\$134.3 million is being thrown into a new national trust to research and implement the government's Whanau Ora policy. We already know that it is private providers

who will deliver the services to families. They will be told to change their business models, train Whanau Ora practitioners and improve their IT systems.



The lessons from the community dumping of disabled and mentally unwell in the 1980s and 1990s are the same lessons being dealt to society today, under the hype of “whanau ora”. Disabled and mentally unwell were thrown out of hospitals and dumped on their families and the workforce became fewer and lesser paid, “community support workers” (who remain at or near minimum wage rates today).

Perhaps the worst thing for Maori is that Turia appears to actually believe the vague and fluffy policy ‘whanau ora’ will result in effective change to families. While capitalist crisis dumps economic costs onto families by the bucket load, Turia will distract the working class from the pain of this with missionary zeal in her oratory. How many Maori will be sucked in by the Whanau Ora hype before the actual reality of under funded social services is understood?

## Foreshore and Seabed means Aquaculture

Capitalist development has gone to sea in a new area of expansion: Aquaculture. Marine farming was bringing in (to NZ) just \$25 million in 1989. It expanded rapidly to over \$200 million in 2000. The vast majority of this income is from the export of green-lip mussels. Overseas demand exceeds supply and is growing. Approximately 28,000 tonnes of mussels were produced from 3000 ha of intensive mussel farms, mostly in the Marlborough Sounds. That is what the foreshore and seabed issue has actually always been about.

Ngati Apa wanted to get in on the burgeoning aquaculture industry in the Marlborough Sounds. While capitalists lined up for aqua farming licences. Ngati Apa waved the Treaty of Waitangi and claimed they already owned the seabed. They successfully got a court to agree that that might be the case. Suddenly the then Labour government put their Foreshore & Seabed law

through to hold it in “public” hands. So, the capitalist state effectively took control of capitalist development of the seabed away from Maori.

While part of the Maori party deal with Nat-Act was to repeal the Labour government’s “Foreshore & Seabed” law nothing is going to change under this government. Indeed capitalist exploitation of the resources of the sea has increased under this government. Nat-Act have expanded the use of seabed with mining and drilling exploration rights up for grabs in many areas of the seabed. Nat-Act announced 10 new marine farms giving 3,143 hectares of new marine farming space, including a 2,695 hectare offshore farm, in Pegasus Bay in Canterbury. Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley said, “we need to get more space more quickly”. They want aquaculture to be bringing in a billion a year by 2025 and they will be changing the law to allow just that (in the aquaculture amendment act).

Maori party get the foreshore & seabed back for Maori: Get real!



## Bennett’s panel of anti-welfare experts

In an informative article on Scoop <http://gordoncampbell.scoop.co.nz/2010/04/20/campbell-paula-bennett%E2%80%99s-strange-welfare-panel/> journalist Gordon Campbell has described as “strange” the composition of a working group Paula Bennett has selected to ‘reform’ the welfare system, but there is nothing strange about it considering the self serving ideological assumptions of her government and its ACT coalition partner. The panel’s composition signifies nothing short of an intention to contract out all social services to Nanny Private Enterprise.

Prominent in the panel’s membership is an assortment of CEOs of trusts already contracted to WINZ. As such they have a direct financial interest in the outcome of their deliberations, and can be expected to propose whatever changes will bring business their way.





Also on the panel are a former ACT Party president, and two overseas academics who have been appointed as 'expert advisors.' One of these, Peter Saunders is a former Director of Centre for Independent Studies in Sydney and is described by Campbell as "a nut job... [who] writes fiction as well as right wing opinion pieces for the press in Australia and Britain, even though it can be hard to tell the difference."

An example of fiction masquerading as fact is Saunders' opinion that there is "a link between low average intelligence and low class position." You can check up on Saunders here <http://www.petersaunders.org.uk/> including his answer to the attacks made on him in NZ on his views of 'class and intelligence'. He makes no attempt to look at class as a factor that influences intelligence. [http://www.petersaunders.org.uk/social\\_class\\_intelligence.html](http://www.petersaunders.org.uk/social_class_intelligence.html)

He makes the common mistake of thinking a correlation is a cause. Class is a much more powerful cause of social position than intelligence. Bourgeois families provide 'better' education for their children that show up in higher intelligence scores, and vice versa for unskilled workers. It follows from this false premise that in Aotearoa where there is far stronger evidence of a correlation between class and ethnicity that Maori and Pasifika people are of low intelligence. In other words this 'expert' advisor is either ignorant of social realities in this country, or (what seems more likely) he is an out and out racist who is too intellectually dishonest to say so openly.

By selecting Saunders to go on her expert panel Bennett is getting a rightwing academic to justify cuts in welfare to people who are too 'stupid' to help themselves and undeserving of the help of others. By privatising provision of welfare market incentives will separate the deserving from the undeserving poor.

## Is China taking over New Zealand?

There is alarm growing that China is about to take over NZ. This concern has been highlighted by the proposed sale of the bankrupt Crafar farms to a Chinese company for \$1.5 billion

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1003/S00683.htm>. The Greens say this means that NZ will lose its 'economic sovereignty'.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA1003/S00386.htm>. CAFCA has spoken out about the dangers of China's buying up NZ assets. <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1003/S00438.htm>

Yet according to CAFCA's own records China has a long way to go to rival the US and Australian imperialist ownership of NZ assets. NZ is a semi-colony nominally independent but actually economically dominated by the US. But this could change as China's rapid emergence makes it a major rival to US imperialism. Not only that China has continued to grow rapidly during the global recession and has trillions of surplus capital to invest in hydrocarbons, other minerals and land. China is now the US main rival in Africa, Latin America and Asia and is already a major player in Australia. So what should be our attitude towards China's increasing role in NZ?



China is no different to other imperialist powers in a time of global crisis when the competition to control scarce raw materials intensifies into military rivalry. They use Free Trade Agreements to take control of raw materials and labour at the expense of its more established rivals. Each has to enlist allies among the rival factions of the national ruling class. US and Australian imperialism are already well represented by the NACT regime but national capitalists are only loyal to their bank balance and can be bought by an economically rampant China. Workers have no interest in choosing sides in these fights. China is no more or less progressive than the US. They are both only interested in making big profits at the expense of cheap resources and low wages. They both suppress democracy and use torture to defend their interests. Our response to imperialist domination of NZ is to fight against all imperialist ownership and control by the socialisation of all assets under workers control.

**Fight US and China with a workers takeover!**

## Fight the Super City!

# Socialise Tamaki Makaurau!

*The Auckland Supercity which will come into existence in October this year unites the four former urban cities of Auckland (Auckland, Waitakere, Manukau and North Shore) along with the rural Rodney and Franklin counties. It has been imposed with extreme urgency by the National-Act-Maori Party (NACTMP) government in the hope of preventing opposition to its coup from organising. Government threw out the Royal Commission report commissioned by the previous Labour Government and rushed through parliamentary legislation under urgency setting up a Transitional Agency to create the new Supercity by October this year. Auckland's services will be put under new Council Controlled Organisations that are like SEOs run from Wellington largely independent of the Auckland Council.*

The National and Act candidates for Mayor and Council in the October election have already been selected to provide the fig leaf of regional democracy. Right winger John Banks is standing for Mayor and a number of National and Act members for the Citizens and Ratepayers ticket for the City Council. Against them the current Labourite Mayor of Manukau Len Brown along with a number of Labour-aligned candidates for council will stand for the centre-left City Vision. But whether left or right controls the Council it will make little difference to the Nat Act coup to privatise Auckland's assets since most of the decisions required will be taken by central Government and not Auckland city itself. The leaves no option for Aucklanders but to organise and fight this takeover of the city by the big capitalists and property speculators through mobilising working people's democratic opposition to make the plans of big capital to highjack Auckland unworkable. The toothless Community Committees must become organs of working class democracy.

### The Banksters coup

The Nat-Act government's plan for a Supercity in Auckland run on the corporate snout-in-the trough governmental model 'by business, for business' was greeted when announced by massive protest rallies of Aucklanders outraged at the breach of all its legal obligations to consult the citizens and by Tangata Whenua angered by the lack of provision for Iwi representation. Undeterred by demonstrations bigger than any seen in Auckland for many years, the government has revealed its true intentions by appointing to the unelected Auckland Transitional Agency such corporate hitmen as Graham Wood. Wood is an ex-managing director of United Water South

Australia, now being taken to court by the SA government for enlisting accounting multinational Price Waterhouse Coopers to misrepresent its profits in order to justify its inflated water prices. This corporate 'citizen' is now trusted with 'integration of Auckland regional water services.'



The corporates are lining up to screw big profits out of working class Aucklanders. United Water (Papakura) is owned by Veolia, which as well as monopolising Auckland's passenger rail services happens to be the world's largest water multinational and has as such been siphoning the water rates of Papakura residents since 1997. The capitalist Veolia has built-in legal protection in its contract with Papakura council against its water services operation being taken back into council ownership. It is the only private owned water service in Auckland.

The scenario is being repeated in Christchurch, where the government has ridden roughshod over democratic representation, sacked the Canterbury Regional Council and appointed Margaret Bazeley to oversee the establishment of water distribution in a manner more in line with the interests of agribusiness. It was Bazeley, hatchet-for-hire, who was used to rationalise the Fire Service more than a decade ago. She sat on the last Labour government's rates enquiry that so nonchalantly sidelined the submissions of civic minded working class citizens.

### Auckland already softened up

Historically over the last few years it is easy to see the direction that the Auckland City Council hierarchy have been heading towards. It is virtually impossible to get any information from ACC over which companies have

been contracted by the ACC, to carry out the various Council services, and the tendering processes involved. Since Council Services were handed over to the private sector, there hasn't been one cost benefit analysis as to the savings and benefit, if any, to the major stakeholder or consumer. The massive 100% increase in rates in recent years has not only been used by the Auckland City Council (ACC) to pay for their own mistakes, such as repairing leaky homes and funding motorways etc, but has also been designed to rate people out of their homes, especially the poorer people living on larger sections, allowing the developers to move in to speculate in rising property values.



We can safely assume that contracting out to the private sector, actually costs more since it must make a profit, as well as building and maintaining its own empire of machinery and plant. Examples of the stupidity of contracting out are plentiful. Waiheke Island's recycling system which was being successfully run by local workers, was axed, with the Auckland City Council contract going in favour of a large Australian Corporation which just ships everything out as rubbish to dump. Similarly Waitakere City Council's Tech Scape, it's own successfully operated Landscape, Parks and Gardens division, has been replaced by a large German Company.

It is not difficult to see that we are in the midst of a large corporate grab of \$28 billion public assets and privatisation of the region's services such as water, ports, transport, airports etc. This is part of a world wide trend of multinational service corporates, including NZ's Infratil which took over Auckland's Yellow Buses and has a share in Auckland International Airport. The capitalist crisis demands the working poor subsidise private owners and restore their profits, by paying increased charges for services through our rates, rents, tolls and water bills.

#### Case: The Metrowater rort

The Metrowater model reflects how ACC policy is now driven by what is best for the market (capitalist class). The setting up of Metrowater to separate all it's revenue gathering services from the ACC, is obviously a preparation for Metrowater's eventual privatisation. Given that there would be no cost savings in the duplication of a separate computer system, and new

office space to house Metrowater. The ACC is to eventually own and have the responsibility for all storm water related infrastructure, because there is no means it can be used to gather revenue. Metrowater's eventual shareholders will not want to finance something it is unable to charge for.

This has now been entrenched by the engineering works adopted by the ACC and Metrowater, in the quest to separate it's joint network of combined sewer-storm water pipe lines, in the Inner Auckland area. The existing combined sewer-storm water pipes are to be re-routed from the Mangere treatment plant to Motions Creek, and become storm water only pipes. There will be a brand new pipeline installed to take sewage and grey water to the Mangere treatment centre. Obviously it would be far cheaper to make the old existing combined line, a sewer only line without having to re-route it from Mangere, and to just install the new pipeline to go the far shorter distance to Motions Creek as the storm water only line. But this would impact on the value which Metrowater can extract from charging for the construction and maintenance of these services separately.

#### Auckland global capital city

When we view the Supercity as part of the ongoing worldwide privatisation grab of the international capitalist imperialist class and its long history of assaults on the working class and such democratic gains it has won in more than a century of struggle, we can understand why the power of the working class to stop this hijack has been weakened and appeals for a rates revolt are being made. The once-mighty union movement has long been leg-ironed by industrial legislation that criminalizes the political strikes that could smash any such antidemocratic assaults such as the Supercity as well as halt all the other current attacks on workers such as the Search and Surveillance Bill.

The Labour and left opposition to the NACTMP capitalist privatisation agenda is pathetic. With the decimation of the militant unions the Labour left has lost any fighting spirit, they are too busy avoiding offending any voter with petty capitalist delusions of getting rich. Len Brown (currently Manukau's Mayor) doesn't even "come out" as a Labour or left candidate. Regardless of offending a voter here or there the new council is as relevant as a soap opera. The real leaders to rule Auckland have already been picked by this bankster government.

#### Demand a working class platform that takes control of Auckland

- **No vote for any candidates without them agreeing to a workers platform. We can select our own candidates, union members and leaders who are willing to run on a working class platform. Workers built this city, we have to claim it as ours.**



- No privatisation of Council or public property such as the ports, roads, rail, the airport, parks, water, wastewater and sewage reticulation. Commit to defending these assets not only in the courts but by mobilising popular resistance to stop their privatisation.
- Take back all water services under full council control and ownership - squash the metro water, water care and united water monopolies. Lock out the monopolies and throw away the key. Abolish water rates- fully fund clean water by raising rates based on property valuation. For urgent works to improve water quality and storm water management (create jobs and cleaner harbours).
- Put road maintenance and development back into public works and create jobs for all. If any council work is contracted out then both quality and workers conditions must be measured; workers should be paid at council workers rates, i.e. contractors must pay no less than council wages rates.
- Free public transport for all at all times of day. Stop subsidising private owners - take back public transport without compensation and under workers control.
- Keep our libraries open and keep them free - no closures of Libraries.
- Keep our swimming pools open and keep them free. Build public pools in every community.
- Quality housing - Councils are complicit in allowing the building industry to make big profits from inferior building standards. For council buy back of leaky buildings for repair, or replacement. For crash program of Council owned public housing. If any council work is contracted out then both quality and workers conditions must be measured; workers should be paid at council workers rates, i.e. contractors must pay no less than council wages rates.
- Make the bosses pay. End subsidies for businesses. Rate property at its improved value. 100% capital gains tax on all profits of property speculation.
- Fight the capitalist coup. Defeat their bid to seize power in Tamaki Makaurau. Build workers democracy to replace the toothless community boards that will have no money and no power.

While the Communist Workers Group supports voting for workers candidates, we have no confidence that a vote can change the system. Capitalism is the dominant economic force in the city and this sort of democracy cannot tame capitalism. The roles of councillors are so restricted that their ability to stop the capitalist privatisation plans is next to nothing. We support workers candidates only to prove that parliamentary democracy is the rule of the bosses against the workers. Against such boss class power we have to build organs of

workers power. One way is to mobilise workers to take control of industry, transport and services. This can also include a consumers strike as one method of building workers democracy. Consumers strikes however, unless backed by workers organisations, cannot take control of production which is the only basis of workers power. Lets look at the example of the rates revolt proposed by the Water Pressure Group (WPG).

### Critical Support for Rates Revolt

The Water-Pressure Group (WPG) which is one of the few groups that has organised against the Supercity, is adamant that the Supercity steamroller cannot be halted without a Rates Revolt. WPG says that the Supercity has flouted all democratic laws and rights of Aucklanders so only a Rates Revolt will stop it succeeding. It is currently lobbying councillors who profess to oppose the Supercity for their support of rates strikers. Yet it will need more than Council lawyers to stop evictions and mortgage sales. WPG fails to argue for working class community support to back those who don't pay their rates in case the council tries to repossess the house to pay for rates arrears. WPG appears to be relying on the capitalists own legal system to protect rates revoltors - we believe this faith is misguided and the risk is that people will be isolated and victimised.



While we call on workers and their organizations to support the Rates Revolt initiative, we do so on the proviso that workers are organised to defend those who may be victimised. It is essential that WPG prepares for direct action against mortgagee sales, by preparing groups of supporters available at short notice to set up picket lines. Only those candidates to municipal office who pledge democratisation and unwavering opposition to privatisations should be given electoral support, and that support should be vigilant and critical. We must prepare for the wave of privatisations that will follow the Supercity's inauguration and fight them with occupations of worksites backed up with mass pickets. To ensure these are strong enough we must redouble the effort to build fighting democratic unions powerful enough to stop the capitalist coupsters in their tracks.

**Support waterside workers - no jobs losses no casualisation. No sale of the ports - no part privatised.**

Currently the ports are owned by the Auckland Regional Council (ARC). However the Supercity will swallow up the ARC, and the ports are to be run as a 'Council Controlled Organisation' (CCO). That is just one step away from being privatised - they will be run and managed like a capitalist company, losing any potential benefits of Council ownership for the people Tamaki Makaurau, that is profits potentially used to meet social needs, and the management of an essential asset to balance efficiency (Auckland is one of the most efficient in the world) with social amenities (public access to the harbour unpolluted by private penthouses and profiteering etc).

Only workers democracy based on working class community committees can mobilise the working class

to defeat the capitalist class plans for Auckland Supercity, and take control of all assets (public and 'private') and plan the economy to meet the needs of workers rather than the profits of the bosses. Socialise Tamaki Makaurau!

**Support unions who fight redundancies and privatisation in the Supercity**

- **Fight redundancy with occupations of sites and take workers control.**
- **For Workers' Community Committees and a Workers Council of Tamaki Makaurau.**
- **For a Socialist Super City and a Socialist Aotearoa!**

**Join the struggle against the capitalist super city with all the struggles around the world to make the bosses pay for their crisis!**

## The Samwu Strike: a fighting plan to win

*We reprint a WIVL article on the lessons of the SAMWU [South African Municipality Workers Union] strike a week after that strike began on April 12. While we are no longer in the same political organisation as the WIVL we are in agreement with the political positions its advocates to win this strike.*

The first lesson to be drawn is that both the ANC [African National Congress] and SACP [South African Communist Party] are responsible for cracking down on the Samwu strikers. The Minister of local government (Co-operative governance), Sicelo Shiceka, is a leader of the SACP. Secondly, the SACP has remained quiet throughout the first 7 days of the strike (the youth wing issued a belated statement on the 7th day of the strike, hardly what we may call a vanguard role). Why is the silence significant? From the beginning the government (let's face it, Salga has no real independent existence from the government), called the strike illegal and threatened over national television, to dismiss any worker who went on strike. The government tried to interdict the strike but even this failed. Now the government tries to intimidate strikers by threatening that they must pay for so-called damages of the strike (R6.4 million). These anti-worker attacks by the SACP and ANC on the municipal strikers, are of the type last seen in the dying days of the apartheid regime.

In another strike (on the railways), SACP leader Lucky Montana told workers over public television, without even a hearing, that they were dismissed. Later he was made to eat his words when workers forced him to



retract the apartheid-style dismissals and they embarked on a face-saving exercise by firing the regional Manager.

What is at the heart of the alliance of the SACP and the ANC against the workers? It is the Stalinist notion of a 2-stage revolution, namely that for the so-called national democratic revolution, that the leadership of the struggle for bourgeois democratic demands are placed in the hands of the middle class and the capitalist class, in this case, the multiclass ANC. Trotsky and Lenin, in defining the permanent revolution, described how, in the colonial world, in the period of imperialist decay (the world being divided up among the monopolies) the struggle for the basic democratic demands can only be

achieved by the working class taking power. Lenin went so far as to say (State & Revolution) that upon attaining a democratic republic, the middle class and the capitalist class lose all their revolutionism. The anti-worker actions of the ANC and SACP in their attempts to crush the strike, prove Lenin correct.

Blade Nzimande got his R1 million BMW within days; JP Morgan Chase, the Bank of New York, the Wall Street gangsters, all got their billions from the 2010 stadiums and infrastructure within months; JP Morgan Chase is actually in charge of loans for Eskom and is daily plundering the working class.



On the other hand, the municipal strikers are waiting 7 years for their back pay; millions of the working class have waited many years for housing and adequate services. Millions will always be unemployed and without adequate housing. The people of Mafafeni are still waiting for their 2 schools (demolished to make way



for the Mbombela stadium).

In other words, imperialism is making super-profits at the expense of the working class, and the main agent of ensuring these profits, are the SACP and ANC. Workers need to ask themselves, if the government cannot even meet a simple demand like 7 years of back pay (which must have been budgeted for), what purpose does the alliance with the ANC and SACP serve? It cannot even meet a single democratic demand! The government has for years been taking loans from the IMF and conditions of the IMF are budget cuts. So here we see directly, the government refuses to pay the municipal workers their due, but makes sure that the first expense is the massive interest payments to imperialism. Imperialism is the real leader of the ANC-SACP-Cosatu alliance that is clear!

The strike of the municipal workers is thus not against Salga (this is only the superficial form), but against imperialism and their structural adjustment programme applied by the SACP and ANC in government.

But the SACP plays a more sinister role than the ANC, from within Cosatu, and in this case, also from within Samwu. High food, transport and electricity prices are artificially high, but the SACP 'vanguard' in Cosatu sit on their fingers. After the massive electricity increase, the World bank orders that 20% of Eskom workers be fired and Numsa leaders are only upset that they were not consulted (no plan to fight the retrenchments). But the Samwu leaders have made a critical error by applying the Stalinist policy of a stayaway after day 3 of the strike. This shows the massive influence of the SACP within the union. The stayaway policy is a recipe for defeat:

1. Firstly, workers are atomised and isolated and there is no mechanism for the mass of strikers to control the direction of the strike;
2. it opens workers to victimization as they are now isolated individuals, instead of a united mass
3. a stayaway deliberately de-mobilises the strikers instead of posing a united workers stance against the bosses
4. a stayaway opens the door for scab labour to be used by the bosses
5. a strike is a contest for power and the bosses, if faced by the united mass of workers at every depot and municipal workplace, would be confronted by working class power; on the other hand, with a stayaway, the absence of the workers gives strength to the bosses; the bosses have huge reserves, they can wait it out. A stayaway (a self-imposed lockout), a pacifist tactic, always tips the balance of forces in the bosses favour
6. the united working class, occupying the workplace, immediately poses the question as to who the real boss is, the worker or the capitalist (and their local managers, the SACP and ANC). Taken to its end, a general strike, with workers occupying the workplace (as opposed to a general stayaway), immediately places on the agenda the formation of strike committees at every workplace and indeed self-defence committees to defend against the red ants and other fascist tools of the state. If all sectors came out in general strike, in support of the municipal workers, as they should (just give 7 days notice), the formation of factory committees and self-defence committees at every workplace, is immediately placed on the agenda. The next step would be to set up councils of delegates from all workplaces, from communities (1 per 100 workers or unemployed), and from the soldiers. This bourgeois system, with the rule of the gangsters of Wall street, is immediately placed under challenge by the united working class.

The stayaway is a Stalinist extension of the 2 stage theory as it takes power out of the hands of the working class, and places it in the hands of the middle class and capitalist class. The stayaway gives gaps to the state to crack down on individual workers and activists. Let us draw the lesson of Greece, when on the 11th March, during the biggest action of the masses in the recent history of their country, the Greek Communist party, supported by the fake left, called a stayaway and the 70 000 who came from different parts of Greece to Athens, were in isolated groups and were openly attacked and tear gassed by the state as well being attacked by fascist gangs. The Greek Communist party refused to topple the government which was implementing massive wage cuts and attacks on the masses. The very government, who allowed JP Morgan and Goldman Sachs to take over the income from the docks and all export and imports of the country (the

income went straight to Wall street and not even to the government, and this at massive interest rates)- the very ones who allowed the imperialists to bankrupt Greece, were protected by the stayaway and the general policy of the Greek Communist party. Soon after, such was the confidence of the imperialists in the Stalinists to control the masses, they implemented further cuts in benefits and wages over the Greek masses.



We need to draw the lesson of the Chinese workers at Linzhou and Tonghua, who occupied their workplace, and forced the Chinese government to reverse the planned privatization of the metal plant and reversal of the dismissal of 20 000 of the 25 000 workers.

It may be that the Samwu worker leaders (or at least part of them) have not been conscious of the implications of the policy of the 'stayaway', so we propose this fighting action plan to win the strike.

At its recent Congress, Samwu adopted a resolution for calling a conference to 'conscientize' workers. Here, in the strike, are the best conditions for an open conference. Here are proposed steps to immediately advance and strengthen the strike:

1. First call mass general meetings of strikers in every town and city, in order to regroup and plan the next steps such as setting up strike committees (based on the right of instant recall of any leader, national or local) and self-defence committees (on the same recall

principle), for every depot or municipal workplace.

2. Occupy strategic depots and municipal workplaces and then extend the occupation to all municipal workplaces;
3. call mass meetings in every working class area and set up strike support committees, led by municipal workers.
4. call meetings with all other unions (allocate this task to the strike committees), including soldiers unions, to give concrete support by giving 7 day notice of solidarity strikes, after a process of mass workplace meetings and election of strike/factory committees (which task should include self-defence committees, especially due to the harsh attacks by the red ants)
5. the election of local councils of delegates of employed, unemployed and soldiers to co-ordinate the solidarity strike action; the immediate calling of a national workers summit of delegates from all workplaces (unionised and non-unionised), from working class communities, including delegates from the unemployed and from soldiers, to plan a general strike, not only in support of the municipal strike, but against the entire imperialist structural adjustment programmes/plans. in every community, care should be taken to include delegates from immigrant workers so their demands are also raised at the workers summit; demands such as full backpay for municipal workers, equal pay for equal work (including immigrant workers), limiting salaries of managers and ministers to that of an average skilled worker, right of instant recall of all government representatives, sharing all work among all who can work, increase wages when prices increase, expropriate all imperialist assets (including all commercial farms and the banks), without compensation to the capitalists, and placing them under workers control, invite delegates from Zimbabwe and Madagascar workers and rank and file soldiers to the summit, and indeed worker and rank and file soldiers delegates from all of Southern Africa.

Call general meetings, set up mass strike committees, occupy, resist, all united under one slogan: **BREAK WITH THE BOURGEOISIE! BREAK WITH THE PACIFISM OF THE SACP AND ANC!**

Long live the fighting spirit of the working class of Kyrgyzstan! Forward to Working class power!

**Workers International League**  
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**affiliated to the International Leninist Trotskyist Fraction.**

# Greece: Workers, Rise Up!

*So Greece hits the top of the news. Greece is the badboy of Europe. Overspender. [Lazy](#). Mediterrean. Ancient. Needs modernising. Needs bondage and discipline by fat German bourgeois or IMF agents. What racist imperialist garbage!*

## We are all Greek!

Greece is a client state of the US and the EU powers - a former classical world empire crunched between the rise of imperialist powers in the last two centuries, invaded and occupied by the British and US to stop a revolution in WW2, and today a favoured tourist destination for the sleek Euro bourgeois, petty bourgeois and [labour aristocracy](#). All of this colorful media spinning to turn Greece into a cot-case is just to disguise what is really going on - Greece is being made a scapegoat for the world capitalist crisis. Unless Greece is 'fixed' the contagion of loose living could infect the whole of the [PIIGS](#) and the EU. It would not stop at the Atlantic. Greek workers must die for the bosses to live.

Globally the bosses are panicked and desperate to make an example of the Greek working class to workers everywhere. To survive the global crisis finance capitalists have to make the workers especially in the weakest semi-colonies and client states pay for their crisis with austerity, a bullshit word for job cuts, wage cuts, pension, education and health cuts. Phase one of the crisis that began in 2007 was to force workers to pay for the public debts blown out by rescuing the banks. Of course this merely shifted the bankruptcy from the banks onto the state public debt.

So phase two that begun in 2009 is to force the workers to pay for bailing out the bankrupt states by the rescued banks, or by central banks that can print money and erode workers living standards by inflation. The bankers have shifted the blame from the private sector onto the national debts of the weakest states and are imposing massive attacks on workers living standards to 'balance the budgets'. That's why this is a revolutionary crisis, because for the working class to live, capitalism and imperialism must die. It is us or them. We are all Greece!

## Whose Crisis ?

First, who should pay for this crisis? Not the workers and poor farmers of the weak oppressed countries! It should be the bosses and their parasitic banks and their state functionaries who pay for the endemic crisis of

capitalism. So let's destroy the myth that this crisis is an accident of badly managed capitalism that can be corrected by scapegoating some or other sections of society. It is not bad regulation, greedy casino capitalists, or banksters that are the cause of this crisis. Nor is it their greedy mates who run the state regimes in their client states. Nor is it workers resistance to austerity. They are but symptoms, effects of crisis. The cause is the endemic crisis-ridden nature of capitalism.

The biggest mistake by the so-called anti-capitalist left is to separate out capitalist production from the

financial system and blame the crisis on the mismanagement of the banks. Thus phase one of the crisis begun in 2007 is seen as the result of money used for speculation on bad assets (subprime housing mortgages) instead of invested in production of value. What they overlook is that the surplus capital was gambled on speculation on 'toxic assets' because of the decline in the rate of profit in production.



Globalisation was more about buying and selling of privatised assets than investment in new production. The over-accumulation of capital that could not be invested in production to produce new value therefore had no alternative but to go into speculation on existing risky assets or lose all of its value. This is what Marx called 'fictitious' capital, because there was no new value being produced by workers that could be exchanged for the mass of capital invested in 'fictitious' values. Such 'capital' was no more than bits of valueless paper. This desperate attempt to postpone the destruction of capital value by speculation in non-values went up in a puff of smoke in 2007 with the collapse of the banking system.

## Sovereign debt crisis

The crisis was temporarily halted by massive state bailouts of the biggest banks, and a huge devaluation and bankruptcy of the weakest banks. But the price was the loading of debt onto the balance sheets of the state central banks that underwrote bad debts and in the case of Britain actually nationalised some banks like Northern Rock. The Greek banking system was similarly



bailed out, and the Greek state borrowed up its deficit to the point that it had to go to the biggest rescued bank, Goldman Sachs, for an 'off balance sheet' loan to hide its bankruptcy. So phase two of the crisis is now dramatically exposed (so much for the bosses cynical 'transparency') by Goldman Sachs which, rescued by US taxpayers money could buy up failed banks, and then buy up weak client states like Greece as if they were banks to be gobbled up.

So far from Greece being responsible for its bankruptcy, we can prove that the Greek state was a mere pawn of EU and US imperialism. Its job was to exploit Greek workers for imperialism. Imperialism loaned money to the Greek state to manage this semi-colonial exploitation. The EU and US (Goldman Sachs) banks make the Greek workers pay for this debt. For decades Greek workers resisted this exploitation by fighting for decent jobs (half are employed in the public sector) wages and pensions, education and health. They have been able to limit the loss of these gains to pay for the mounting state debt.

But now that the bosses' endemic crisis has gripped the world economy and exposed how weak the Greek economy is, the EU and US banks make an example of it for the rest of the world. Greek workers must be forced to lose jobs, cut wages, pensions and education and health spending to pay back the imperialist banks and their ruling classes. This is how the imperialists want the workers all over the world to pay for their crisis! So in Greece we have a revolutionary situation that represents the potential for a revolutionary situation in the whole world. The sparks flying in the current insurrectionary struggles in Greece can light fires in every major city in the world.

### The union bureaucracy

The Greek working class majority is still under the illusion that PASOK (the main social democratic party) can solve the crisis because PASOK has since the war brought many gains to workers. They elected PASOK to power last year to defend their living standards. PASOK however is being made to solve the crisis at the expense of its working class base. Its leadership has agreed to the terms of the EU and IMF to cut pay, jobs and pensions by huge amounts. We have seen that in its year in office PASOK is incapable of solving the crisis except at the expense of the workers. This means that workers already fed up and angry will rapidly break from PASOK to the left. Standing between them and independent working class politics is the powerful Greek labour bureaucracy of the GSEE-ADEDY that backs majority PASOK and the minority of the PAME of the KKE.

The union bureaucracy is the main force inside the working class that acts as the agents of the bosses to trap workers on the reformist dead end road. It is the main union bloc backing PASOK that is holding back the revolutionary development of the radicalising masses. They have called for several 'general strikes' over the last two years, the most recent on May 5/6. However, they are designed not to allow workers to develop into a fighting movement. Rather they are designed to let off steam for 48 hours and to pressure PASOK in the hope of minimising the attacks on the working class.



For two years militants have been moving left towards the KKE (Greek Communist Party) and the other 'left' parties but this is not a break from reformism or social democracy. The KKE is a reformist party with a rotten history of betrayal of workers revolution. The majority of Greek workers want a new left social democratic party to replace the sell-out PASOK and the KKE may move into

this vacuum. But it was the KKE that split the working class and allowed the imperialists to smash the revolution in Greece during WW2. They will talk left but neutralise the working class fight to make the bosses pay for their crisis. To give any support, critical or otherwise, to the KKE in this revolutionary situation is to betray the working class.

### Syriza, Maoists and Anarchists

To the left of the KKE and the smaller left reformist groups are a number of small new left, Maoist, Trotskyist and anarchist formations that are taking advantage of the growing militancy. The May 5/6 48 hour general strike that followed two others in March and April got half a million on the streets. None of the left parties are capable of offering much leadership. For example the broad left Coalition of the Radical Left ([Syriza](#)) is an anticapitalist formation linked to the World Social Forum. It is limited to mobilising workers to pressure parliament to the left.

Some have reactionary programs like the [Maoists](#) who see this crisis as one that can be solved by the Greek 'people' breaking with the EU and fighting for their national independence.

In our view, Greek nationalism has a progressive element since Greece is a semi-colonial client state of the EU and US and is being nationally oppressed by the 'conditions' imposed by the EU and IMF to resolve 'its' crisis. However, to limit the struggle of the Greek masses to national independence would hamstring the revolutionary independence of the proletariat behind some or other 'progressive' national bourgeois or petty bourgeois leadership. The betrayal of the mass struggle

in Nepal by the Maoists is a sad object lesson.

The anarchist formations have emerged as the most radical forces in the strikes and street actions. They have a history of rejection of the Stalinist KKE traitors, and the Maoist stagist national revolution, for street action and spontaneous [anti-capitalist insurrection](#). It is therefore, the youth activist rebellion against the older generation of Stalinist/Maoist bureaucrats. For that reason, it is a powerful, progressive force that needs to be guided by a revolutionary program that overcomes its weaknesses. Anarchism fails to see that the revolutionary proletariat must be organised both democratically and centrally. Without any centralised command the working class is prey to a disorganised individual terrorist actions and the covert action of state forces as '5th columnists'. The genuine hatred of anarchist youth for the Stalinist/Maoist bureaucratic dictatorships of the past and betrayals of the Greek working class can only be turned into a consistent revolutionary direction by the revolutionary Trotskyist program.

### Greek 'Trotskyism'

Let's look at what Greek 'Trotskyism' offers, as well as several international currents who are outspoken on the Greek crisis. There are several international currents such as the Woodite [IMT](#), Clifite [SWP](#) and [CRFI](#) who have small groups in Greece. These groups have no real Trotskyist program to win over the vanguard and make the revolution. The IMT is busy sucking up to Chavez in Venezuela and his call for a 'Fifth International' that includes Hu Jintao!

The Clifites are semi-anarchist anti-capitalists who refuse to call for a vanguard party and armed workers militias. The SWP [talks](#) about Greece rising up against IMF cuts and gives support to the anti-capitalist Antarsya program which are demands on PASOK: *"Disobedience against IMF and EU directives; Exit from the eurozone and the European Monetary Union; Struggle for an anti-capitalist exit from the EU; The immediate stoppage of foreign debt payments; Give money to workers not bankers; Nationalisation of banks under workers' control; Demand the taxation of capital and immediate cuts to military expenditures; Ban lay-offs; Secure and decent jobs for all; Immediate increase to wages; Protect collective agreements; Legalise immigrants; Political asylum and shelter for refugees; Public social security, health system, and education for all."*

Nor more than militant pressure on the PASOK regime to defend workers rights and living standards. Nothing about workers self-organisation! Nothing about turning a general strike into a seizure of power.

The IMT [said](#) that the May 5/6 general strike was an 'earth shattering' success and then calls for it to be extended to an "all out general strike until the government backs off"! Again, militant language, spontaneous anti-capitalism, but no decisive break from reformist pressure on the government. The article takes a defensive line against those who blame the workers movement for the killing of three bank workers. There is no call to build workers councils with workers militias to coordinate and discipline the struggle and to defeat provocateurs. No call to bring down the government and for a workers government! Are they looking for a Greek Chavez?

The other longstanding 'Trotskyist' party is the Workers' Revolutionary Party or [EEK](#) which was until 1989 part of the ICFI better known as Socialist Equality Party and [World Socialist Web Site](#) (WSWS). Since 2008 the EEK has been the Greek section of the Coordinating Committee for the Refoundation of the Fourth



International ([CRFI](#)). The EEK is ultraleft on the unions failing to make a distinction between the union bureaucracy and the rank and file members so cannot intervene inside the unions to put united front demands on the leadership for an indefinite general strike. While Trotsky condemned the [unions in the epoch of imperialism](#) as incorporated in the state, he always called for the rank and file to break with the

bureaucracy and to build fighting democratic unions. Since unions were the main organisations of the labour movement they had to be 'revolutionised' to form workers' councils and workers' militias. A genuine Trotskyist [transitional program](#) fights to transform the unions into organs of workers power. While the EEK calls for nationalisations and expropriations, it has not raised a program to transform the unions and build workers councils, workers and soldiers militias as [organs of dual power](#).

### Action Program

The transitional program starts with defensive demands against all attacks on worker and counters with immediate demands based on what workers need now, not what the bosses can afford. It is legitimate to put these immediate demands on the regime, but they must be backed by demands for workers to organise and fight independently of the regime warning that the regime (and its reformist agents in the working class) must defend capitalism and imperialism against the workers. Fighting for these immediate demands forces workers to organise to take control of production, form workers militias to defend themselves from state forces, split the army ranks to the side of workers, and build dual power organs such as workers councils or soviets. It

becomes clear as the struggle develops that there is no solution to the crisis for workers other than the seizure of power and the formation of a workers government that can socialise capitalist property and create a planned economy.

- **Fight all austerity cuts to jobs, wages, pensions, and state spending on health and education! For a sliding scale of hours and wages to create decent work for all!**
- **Form workplace councils of action everywhere! For a national congress of all unions and worker, students and self-employed councils of action to prepare for an indefinite general strike to bring down the PASOK government!**
- **For the occupation under workers and students control of all workplaces during the indefinite general strike!**
- **Form workers, students and self-employed defence militias to defend the general strike! For soldiers committees of the rank and file to provide arms to the defence militias!**

- **For a Workers Government to socialise the banks, imperialist and national capitalist property, under workers control, and for a socialist planned economy!**
- **For a Socialist Republic of Greece as part of a Socialist United States of Europe!**

An action program for Greece cannot be advanced in isolation of the rest of the EU and the world. An insurrection in Greece will not survive unless it is supported by European workers who stop NATO from invading and occupying Greece as the US and Britain did in WW2. Workers in Europe must defend Greece in their own action programs that fight to cancel the debt to semi-colonies, and expropriate the imperialist banks. It is necessary to build a revolutionary international workers party that can unite the vanguard workers in every country behind an international program for world revolution.

**For a World Party of Socialist Revolution based on the 1938 Program of the Fourth International!**

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## US: For an All-out Strike to fight union-busting

*The Oakland Board of Education is determined to bust the OEA, no matter what it takes, and no matter how much it hurts our children's education. Through its unprecedented move of abruptly shutting down negotiations and imposing its chosen terms on the teachers, the Board has not only declared war on the union, but also has shown that it is committed to destroying the quality of education for the children of Oakland. The Board is supposed to put our children first. Instead, it has revealed its true role, which is to help carry out the overall effort to cut public education and other social services to the bone.*

If the Board succeeds in imposing forced concessions in Oakland, this trend will set the standard across the nation. Once the employer has imposed conditions without a signed contract the union is for all practical purposes busted, and can no longer function as a fighting union! Unless the members stand firm and fight for their contract, the OEA will become a mere shell. Like too many other unions, it will be reduced to the role of a messenger to bring the bad news to its members, with a sad face and the old sorry excuse: "Aw, shucks, that's the best we could do; we all know times are hard."

### **Nationally it's the same story**

The ruling class keeps working class parents and teachers isolated district from district, and many teachers' union leaders have fallen into the trap, keeping their district in isolation and fighting their battles purely on the local level. We have fallen into the habit of negotiating separately, with all the districts treating education like a local issue. So when each district claims it's broke, it appears as a local issue and the punditry and media hacks point to declining enrolment, changing demographics, bloated benefit packages, or expensive consultants to reinforce the lie that Oakland's problems are different from Richmond's,

San Francisco's, Detroit's, Washington D.C.'s or Newark's.

We know better! Our district is not the only place where public education is under attack. Budget cuts, union-busting, and privatization are widespread across the nation, fuelled by the aftermath of the worldwide economic crisis. From Oakland and Richmond to New Orleans, Detroit, Chicago, and Rhode Island, public education is under attack, and the unions are being challenged for their very survival.

Local responses to this nationwide situation are popping up across the country; for example, students in New Jersey plan a state-wide strike next week. But the crisis of education is not local. The root of the problem goes way deeper than that. From the puppets in the White House all the way down to the local school boards, all the legislators and other government officials are doing the bidding of those who hired them, and they know damn well it's not the working folk. We are told to seek solutions only from district school boards, local governments, and states. But to be effective and save public education from privatization, each community's response must be part of a national movement! This strike is not only for our own survival and to save education in Oakland, but is part of the defense of



unions and the fight to stop the Democratic Party drive to privatize education across the nation.

We know damn well that if the ruling class wanted our youth educated, working class schools would be flourishing, because they would be getting the quality and quantity of support the military-industrial complex counts on every year. If Obama had any faith in the public school system, his daughters would be attending D.C.'s finest.

#### **Obama's part of the problem**

But Obama cannot and does not intend to salvage the education system that working class youth depend on. Just like Bush before him, he is acting as the good CEO for imperialism, and putting the needs of US corporations far ahead of the education of working class youth. Posing as a great reformer, he has offered us a new program - RACE FOR THE SLOP - under which chronically underfunded districts in economically destroyed communities try to prove their worthiness to stay alive in a "fair competition" to meet standards set without regard to the special educational needs of young people inner city, poor, and multicultural school districts. Meanwhile, class size rules are being ignored, and the quality of education diminishes, and teachers' wages are being driven so low that talented, experienced educators are being forced out of their chosen profession.

The recent firing of an entire school staff in Rhode Island was the opening salvo in an attack on public workers the likes of which has not been seen since Obama's mentor Ronald Reagan destroyed PATCO.

Be clear, brothers and sisters: this president is leading a war against the unions and the working class. As part of this effort, Obama and his Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, are leading the drive to destroy public education through privatization of public universities and promotion of charter schools.

The effect of this effort is already starting to show. The UC system is no longer accessible to the average working class student. The chronically starved schools have such high dropout rates that many of our young workers will never be ready for higher education and will remain functionally illiterate. And to put the final nail in their coffin, adult education is being slashed in district after district, giving the most oppressed no way to "pull themselves up by their bootstraps."

#### **But we CAN fight back!**

Teachers, workers, parents, and students are not powerless! Last week, in Orange County, the Capistrano Unified School District had a one-day strike over a 10% pay cut that was respected by two-thirds of the parents and students. In order to call an effective halt to the cuts in public education, however, we will need to do more than hold educational pickets prior to school, visit Sacramento to lobby the paid stooges of the ruling class, and organize day of action protests like

those on March 4. Even one-day strikes will not be enough. Unless the ruling class feels the real power of labor through full-on, determined, indefinite strike actions that cut across district and state lines and unite educators, workers, students, and parents, public education will be starved into submission to the privatizing drive.

Even slowing the attacks on working people or winning a decent contract in Oakland will not be possible until workers achieve a much higher level of self-organization and political independence. The Democrats count on the Union leaders to deliver our membership into the often tried and failed political task of supporting another millionaire for the next open office; in our case our unions will push for Jerry Brown and the Democrats as the executioner of choice. To maintain their political control, the Democrats will try to put our movement back to sleep and keep union members from generalizing the fight-back across localities, and from acting politically by running working class candidates under labor's banner. To fight back effectively, rank-and-file union members must take control back from the current leadership and forge a new, politically independent militant workers' movement.

To win a fair contract, the OEA will have to take a number of steps: 1) escalate the strike action from one day to an extended strike until demands are met and a contract is signed; 2) break out of localism and link our struggle with that of others across the state and nation who are fighting privatization; 3) work to spark a Bay Area wide, statewide and ultimately nationwide strike for education; and 4) defeat Taft-Hartley and other reactionary anti-labor laws through action, not legislation. As long as our labor leaders accept anti-labor legislation that tells us when we can and cannot strike, labor cannot win. Only when the ruling class has its back to the wall because we as workers exert our power on the picket line and in the streets as we unite and smash the anti-labor laws. This is how we will get decent wages, benefits and provide quality education for the youth. This will also be a big step in breaking with the Democrats and building a fighting labor party.

- **FIRST STEP: ALL OUT ON APRIL 29!**
- **THEN: TURN THE ONE DAY STRIKE INTO AN ONGOING STRIKE TILL WE WIN!**
- **SMASH TAFT-HARTLEY! STRIKE ACROSS DISTRICT, COUNTY & STATE LINES!**
- **BUILD FOR A GENERAL STRIKE BY ALL TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES THROUGHOUT THE BAY AREA AND CALIFORNIA !**

**Humanist Workers for Revolutionary Socialism**

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# What We Fight For

## Overthrow Capitalism

Historically, capitalism expanded world-wide to free much of humanity from the bonds of feudal or tribal society, and developed the economy, society and culture to a new higher level. But it could only do this by exploiting the labor of the productive classes to make its profits. To survive, capitalism became increasingly destructive of "nature" and humanity. In the early 20th century it entered the epoch of imperialism in which successive crises unleashed wars, revolutions and counter-revolutions. Today we fight to end capitalism's wars, famine, oppression and injustice, by mobilising workers to overthrow their own ruling classes and bring to an end the rotten, exploitative and oppressive society that has exceeded its use-by date.

## Fight for Socialism

By the 20th century, capitalism had created the pre-conditions for socialism - a world-wide working class and modern industry capable of meeting all our basic needs. The potential to eliminate poverty, starvation, disease and war has long existed. The October Revolution proved this to be true, bringing peace, bread and land to millions. But it became the victim of the combined assault of imperialism and Stalinism. After 1924 the USSR, along with its deformed offspring in Europe, degenerated back towards capitalism. In the absence of a workers political revolution, capitalism was restored between 1990 and 1992. Vietnam and China then followed. In the 21st century only Cuba and North Korea survive as degenerate workers states. We unconditionally defend these states against capitalism and fight for political revolution to overthrow the bureaucracy as part of world socialism.

## Defend Marxism

While the economic conditions for socialism exist today, standing between the working class and socialism are political, social and cultural barriers. They are the capitalist state and bourgeois ideology and its agents. These agents claim that Marxism is dead and capitalism need not be exploitative. We say that Marxism is a living science that explains both capitalism's continued exploitation and its attempts to hide class exploitation behind the appearance of individual "freedom" and "equality". It reveals how and why the reformist, Stalinist and centrist misleaders of the working class tie workers to bourgeois ideas of

nationalism, racism, sexism and equality. Such false beliefs will be exploded when the struggle against the inequality, injustice, anarchy and barbarism of capitalism in crisis, led by a revolutionary Marxist party, produces a revolutionary class-consciousness.

## For a Revolutionary Party

The bourgeois and its agents condemn the Marxist party as totalitarian. We say that without a democratic and a centrally organised party there can be no revolution. We base our beliefs on the revolutionary tradition of Bolshevism and Trotskyism. Such a party, armed with a transitional program, forms a bridge that joins the daily fight to defend all the past and present gains won from capitalism, to the victorious socialist revolution. Defensive struggles for bourgeois rights and freedoms, for decent wages and conditions, will link up the struggles of workers of all nationalities, genders, ethnicities and sexual orientations, bringing about movements for workers control, political strikes and the arming of the working class, as necessary steps to workers' power and the smashing of the bourgeois state. Along the way, workers will learn that each new step is one of many in a long march to revolutionise every barrier put in the path to the victorious revolution.

## Fight for Communism

Communism stands for the creation of a classless, stateless society beyond socialism that is capable of meeting all human needs. Against the ruling class lies that capitalism can be made "fair" for all; that nature can be "conserved"; that socialism and communism are "dead"; we raise the red flag of communism to keep alive the revolutionary tradition of the Communist Manifesto of 1848, the Bolshevik-led October Revolution; the Third Communist International until 1924, the revolutionary Fourth International up to 1940 before its collapse into centrism. We fight to build a new, Fifth, Communist International, as a world party of socialism capable of leading workers to a victorious struggle for socialism.

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